

American Academy of Dermatology and Syphilology. Over 600 dermatologists from all parts of the United States and Canada are expected to go to Chicago for the third annual meeting of the American Academy of Dermatology and Syphilology at the Palmer House, December 8, 9, 10, and 11. Over sixty lectures are listed on the program from Monday, December 9, through Wednesday, December 11. Sessions are in the form of symposia, special lectures in courses of one to four hours each; numerous luncheon round table discussions, and clinical presentations at the University of Illinois Medical School in Chicago.

Army Sick List Here Checked for Possible Influenza Epidemic.—With approximately 150 patients with respiratory infections under treatment at Letterman General Hospital, Bay Area health authorities today were closely watching the possible development of an influenza epidemic. The influx of patients, all from local military posts, started November 13, and has now reached proportions of a "low epidemic," Letterman Hospital authorities said.

Medical authorities, however, were not surprised at the appearance of the disease as they had been warned to expect it by Dr. M. D. Eaton, chief of the influenza laboratory of the University of California.

"I was in the Hawaiian Islands in October watching the influenza epidemic," Doctor Eaton said. "I warned mainland health authorities that it might be carried eastward by passengers or troops. The epidemic is now under control in Honolulu, but is still serious in the outlying islands."

Another week or ten days will be needed to complete laboratory tests to ascertain if the infections being treated at Letterman are influenza, Doctor Eaton indicated.

Close watch kept over troops' health and the concentration of all ill men from the Bay Area in one hospital explains the sudden jump of cases at Letterman, medical authorities said.—*San Francisco News*, November 22.

Control of Venereal Diseases in California: Co-operation of Druggists.—Coöperation of druggists is proving a vital factor in the control of venereal diseases in California, Dr. Bertram P. Brown, state health director, reports.

Hundreds of patients have been referred to doctors and clinics since the State Department of Public Health began its voluntary program of coöperation.

Started in Alameda County in February, the program has been completed in the following counties: Contra Costa, Imperial, Nevada, Sacramento, San Diego, San Joaquin, Sonoma, Sutter, and Yuba. It is nearing completion in Los Angeles County.

Pledges of coöperation had been made by 1,280 druggists up to November 1. Only eleven firms had refused to sign the pledge that they "will not sell medicines for the treatment of venereal diseases except upon order of a physician's prescription and will refer all patients to a physician or to a health clinic."

In response to a questionnaire, physicians in Alameda County reported that 122 patients had been referred to them by druggists since the educational program was concluded there. The Oakland city clinic reported it had admitted 105 patients referred by druggists during the same period.

Press Clippings.—Some news items from the daily press on matters related to medical practice follow:

Medical Group Backs Low-Cost Housing Program
Governors Approve Recommendation of City Health Officer

The Board of Governors of the Fresno County Medical Society, through a letter from Dr. J. E. Young, secretary, today informed Mayor Frank A. Homan of its endorsement of a recommendation by Dr. Carleton Mathewson, City Health Officer, favoring the proposed \$738,000 slum clear-

ance program offered the city by the United States Housing Authority. . . .

In Doctor Young's communication, the minutes of the special board meeting are enclosed, saying, in part:

"It was moved by Dr. H. A. Randel and seconded by Dr. J. M. Frawley that the Board of Governors of the Fresno County Medical Society go on record as endorsing the recommendations of the Fresno City Health Officer regarding the slum clearance program for Fresno as sponsored by the United States Housing Authority. . . ."

Doctor Young added in his letter the statement that "It is the attitude of the Board of Governors and of the members of the Fresno County Medical Society that it does not wish to take any stand upon any controversial political subjects, but it is definitely in favor of any program that will help to improve the health of this city." . . .

According to Doctor Young the Board's actions have the sanction of the Society membership, which includes most of the physicians and surgeons in Fresno and Madera counties. . . .—*Fresno Bee*, October 24, 1940.

150,362,326 Now in U. S. Family

Population Figures Include Territories and Possessions

Washington, Nov. 19 (AP).—The Census Bureau today placed the total population of the United States, its territories and possessions at 150,362,326.

This represented an increase of 11,923,267, or 8.6 per cent, over the 1930 census, on the basis of preliminary figures. . . .

The continental United States population previously had been placed at 131,409,881, an increase of 7 per cent. The population of territories and possessions, excluding the Philippine Islands, was placed at 2,596,445, a gain of 445,422, or 20.7 per cent. . . .—*San Francisco Chronicle*, November 20, 1940.

San Francisco Municipal Employees Reassured on No. 8

Assurance has been given municipal employees that the San Francisco medical profession has no intention of "taking over" the Employees' Health Service System nor of seeking increased financial contributions from System members.

The assurance was given by Dr. John W. Cline, chairman of the Health and Hospitalization Insurance Committee of the San Francisco County Medical Society.

In a letter to the Health Service Board, which administers the employees' group health insurance program, Doctor Cline asked Board coöperation in dispelling two misunderstandings encountered among city workers during the recent Charter Amendment No. 8 campaign.

"One was that Charter Amendment No. 8 is an entering wedge for doctors to take over the System; another was that No. 8 was sponsored by the Society to lay the groundwork for demanding an increase in members' contributions," said Doctor Cline.

Since Charter Amendment No. 8 takes nothing from the Health Service Board's powers, it cannot be an "entering wedge" to take over the System, Doctor Cline pointed out. Equally, the amendment has not effect on members' contributions, he said. Doctor Cline continued:

"Actually, Charter Amendment No. 8 provides for an annual review of the adequacy of medical care furnished System members and of compensation paid for such care, with power of review vested in the Retirement Board. As such it is in the interests alike of System members and those who serve them and was so conceived."—*San Francisco Recorder*, November 12, 1940.

New Appointment to Medical Board

Los Angeles, Nov. 13 (AP).—Governor Olson announced today the appointment of Dr. Hugo N. Kersten, Los Angeles physician, to the State Board of Medical Examiners, and the reappointment of Dr. Charles B. Pinkham of San Francisco.

Doctor Kersten succeeds Dr. William R. Molony of Los Angeles, whose term expired last January 15.—*San Francisco Chronicle*.

Medical Board Member Resigns

Examiner Bureau, Sacramento, Nov. 20.—The Governor's office today announced receipt of the resignation of Dr. C. E. Schoff of Sacramento from the State Board of Medical Examiners.

A member of the Board since 1919, Doctor Schoff resigned a term expiring January 15 for "personal reasons," officials said.—*San Francisco Examiner*.

Ponder Legislation

The Legislative Committee of the San Francisco Life Underwriters Association, headed by James M. Hamill of the Equitable Life of New York and the Committee of the California State Association of Life Underwriters are pon-

dering a number of proposed legislative measures affecting the life insurance business. . . .

Another measure in which both the life and the accident and health underwriters are interested sets up a legal status for voluntary hospital insurance associations with definite requirements. It would regulate doctors and hospitals seeking to render such service for regular monthly or annual fees and place them upon an insurance company basis as far as State regulation and supervision is concerned.—San Francisco *Commercial News*, November 4, 1940.

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Cyclotron Aids Fight on Disease

U. C. Scientists Report Progress in Cancer, Leukemia Studies

Eight University of California scientists held the center of interest at Cambridge, Mass., yesterday with reports to the National Conference on Applied Nuclear Physics of the latest work done with Dr. Ernest O. Lawrence's atom-smashing cyclotron.

In four papers read to the conference they announced these developments:

1. To date seventy-five cancer sufferers have been treated with the strange neutron ray created by the cyclotron, with results that justify continued experiment.

2. Sixteen victims of chronic leukemia have been treated with "cocktails" containing radioactive phosphorus produced in the cyclotron, and results in eleven cases are "quite encouraging."

3. Tiny organisms, so small they must be put under the microscope to be seen, are being put to work in a novel manner to produce radioactive acids which cannot be synthesized in the laboratory.

4. As a result of findings on the danger to workers from rays produced by the cyclotron, the projected 4,900-ton cyclotron will be surrounded by a wall of water 20 feet thick, with the control room underground or over the brow of the hill.

Cancer Treatment

Reporting on the cancer treatment were Dr. Robert S. Stone and Dr. John C. Larkin, staff members at the radiation laboratory and medical school.

Because a cancer patient must be well for at least five years after his apparent cure before he can be considered cured, the doctors said it is "much too early" to speculate on the worth of the new neutron treatment.

They said, however, that "early effects are encouraging."

In their report on the leukemia treatments, Drs. John Lawrence, L. A. Erf and L. W. Tuttle said that radioactive phosphorus is found to go naturally to those parts of the body where the excessive white blood cells of leukemia are manufactured.

Administered in liquid solutions, dubbed "cocktails" by some of the experimenters, the phosphorus radiations seem able to destroy diseased tissue without injuring normal body cells, said the report.

Radioactive Acid

Drs. Samuel Ruben and Martin D. Kamen, the laboratory's specialists in biochemical fields, reported that they successfully "fed" radioactive carbon to microorganisms, and the organisms in turn produced an acid which the scientists wanted.

The radio activity of the carbon was preserved in the acid, making the acid suitable for experiments which the scientists wish to make on functions of the human body.

Dr. Paul C. Aebersold, reporting on studies made of the effect of radiations within the laboratory on laboratory workers, said his findings will lead to several protective measures at the big laboratory being built in Strawberry Canyon at Berkeley for the new cyclotron.

Thick Walls

There will be thick walls of concrete around all working quarters, and workers will stay 30 feet away from the cyclotron, he said.

Doctor Aebersold disclosed that laboratory workers regularly undergo examinations to make certain they are not absorbing too much of the neutron and gamma rays.

When a worker is absorbing too much radiation he takes a few days off.—San Francisco *Examiner*, November 1.

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Trophy Goes to Physicians

Three Given Collier Award for Research in Stratosphere

Washington, Nov. 14 (AP).—One of the nation's outstanding awards for achievement in aviation today went to three physicians who pioneered in studying why a pilot's blood boils when he ascends to a height of seven miles above the earth.

Dr. Walter Boothby and Dr. W. Randolph Lovelace II of the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., and Capt. Harry Armstrong of the Army Medical Corps were awarded the Col-

lier Trophy, presented annually since 1911, for their medical research work on what happens to a person's brain, nerves, blood and reflexes when he ascends into the stratosphere.

Cause of Accidents

They have found that a flyer loses consciousness almost instantly if he fails to keep breathing oxygen when he goes above 20,000 feet, that many accidents are caused by anoxemia—oxygen want—that a pilot cannot coordinate his muscles without sufficient oxygen to feed them.

They would scoff at being called courageous because, to them, it is just part of the day's work.

Yet Captain Armstrong has taken off his oxygen mask at 35,000 feet on numerous occasions ("just to see what would happen") and promptly was "blacked out" until he dropped to 20,000 feet.

Done Repeatedly

Doctor Boothby and Doctor Lovelace, with the same inquisitiveness, have done the same thing repeatedly in the air and in the low-pressure chamber of the Mayo Clinic and the Army Air Corps at the Wright Field Matériel Division in Dayton, Ohio.

They have proved that actually a man's blood does boil when he gets into the rarefied atmosphere five miles or more aloft, that a pilot becomes extremely fearful when he suffers from lack of oxygen for less than a minute, that he cannot coordinate his brain and muscles. He thinks he thinks, but doesn't.

Give Others Credit

The three physicians give most of the credit for the award to the pilots of Northwest Airlines, who acted as guinea pigs in extensive tests in the Mayo Clinic's low-pressure chamber; to D. W. Tomlinson, research pilot of Transcontinental and Western Air; to several hundred Rochester high school boys who did "fatigue" tests on the Mayo Clinic treadmill; to the men of the Army Air Corps who made standardization of pressure reactions possible, and particularly to a young self-effacing private named Raymond Whitney of the Matériel Division at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio.—Los Angeles *Times*.

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Some Motorists Can Drink and Still Drive Well

San Francisco, Nov. 7.—Scientific evidence that some people can toss off five or six drinks of liquor in 15 minutes and still handle the steering wheel and brakes of an automobile better than certain others who are cold sober, was reported yesterday by two California researchers.

Drinking, they said, undoubtedly lowers driving efficiency. But they found that while a given amount of alcohol in the blood, for instance, enough to make the average person unsteady, might make some unfit to sit behind the wheel, it had no significant effect on the driving efficiency of many others.

They concluded there were no scientific grounds for setting a definite figure on alcohol in the blood as a yardstick for intoxication; that one might just as well use a person's height rather than a pair of scales to determine his weight.

The report was made by Dr. Henry Newman, neuropsychiatrist at Stanford University Medical School, and Edwin Fletcher of the State Motor Vehicle Department to the *Journal* of the American Medical Association.—Colusa *Sun-Herald*.

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Greatest State Fair Closes

New Attendance Mark of 700,000 Established at Eleven-Day Exhibition

Sacramento (Associated Press).—Thousands joined the chorus, "Happy Birthday!" for California today and helped the State Fair celebrate the last of eleven record-breaking days.

The fair came to a festive finish with an Admission Day program highlighted by a "parade of pioneers" and an old-fiddlers' contest.

It left behind a new attendance mark of at least 700,000, a \$500,000 race-track handle, awards of \$150,000 in premiums and \$10,000 in varied exhibits.

Preparing for Next

Preparing already for the 1941 exposition, the Board of Directors set August 29 to September 7 as the dates of next year's show. . . .—Los Angeles *Times*, September 10.

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A Burden on Society

Editor of *The Bee*—Sir: For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1937, New Jersey appropriated \$15,087,382.17 to care for her social inadequates. That was nearly fifteen times the amount provided for higher education. During the biennium, 1935-36, New Jersey spent \$10,094,340 for new plant and equipment for these inadequates. In spite of these vast

sums not over 10 per cent of those receiving it are under institutional care at any one time. The 90 per cent are at liberty to mingle in society and reproduce their kind.

Many of the idiots and imbeciles are so low in the scale of intelligence they do not constitute much of a problem in reproduction. Morons and feeble-minded are just the reverse. Some of these of higher grade can pass as normal, and mingle in society. With low inhibitions, they are a menace to society. Particularly is this true when they contact the females of their own mental class.

It has been said that an insane person may produce a genius, but not so with the feeble-minded. Their offspring are always below par mentally, and are more prolific than the normal individual. They are largely responsible for our social problem.

Yours for a program of eugenics sterilization of the feeble-minded.—Dr. Eugene H. Pitts, Sacramento, November 2, 1940.—*Sacramento Bee*, November 4.

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Control Plan Is Working

Editor of *The Bee*—Sir: An incident on this trip is illuminating as illustrating progress in disease control. It also will awaken memories of older Sacramentans.

This trip is being devoted partly to studies of the origins of the Arkie-Oakie migration into California from the Dust Bowls; partly to studies of the causes of poverty. It has included conferences with physicians in one of the foremost medical centers of the South. One of its leaders spoke most encouragingly of the ever-bettered control of venereal disease. He said formerly venereal disease was a most pressing problem. It is becoming so rare that in certain forms the young doctors hardly recognize it.

The cause and effect thereof has roots in Sacramento. Dr. Wm. F. Snow, former Sacramentan and former secretary of the California State Board of Health, planned this campaign so efficiently he was called to New York where, for some thirty years, in American Social Hygiene Organization, he has directed it. Mention also should be made of Dr. E. H. Pitts. For a long time he gave lunch hour talks on venereal disease wherever Sacramento men would listen—in the Southern Pacific Shops, the Y.M.C.A., etc. This took rare courage for there was then a social taboo on any mention of venereal disease. It was the work of a devoted few, like Doctor Pitts, in each of our forty-eight states which has built up public opinion until venereal disease is disappearing like smallpox, malaria, typhoid.

This letter is sent because *The Bee* publishes occasional letters on eugenics from Doctor Pitts. His labors, unselfish, in eugenics, may prove even more fruitful than in venereal disease control.—C. M. Goethe, Little Rock, Arkansas, October 30, 1940.—*Sacramento Bee*, November 5.

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State Given \$37,002,500 Security Aid

Washington ((AP). — California received \$37,002,500 in Federal grants during the past fiscal year to aid in financing various Social Security programs, the Social Security Board reported.

Grants to the State in the preceding fiscal year were \$27,347,000.

Included in the grants for the past fiscal year were \$27,964,600 for old-age assistance, \$2,662,400 for aid to dependent children, \$1,530,600 for aid to the blind, \$4,155,900 for unemployment compensation administration, \$333,800 for public health work, \$135,900 for maternal and child-health services, \$153,100 for services to crippled children, and \$66,300 for child welfare services.

\$42,930,200 Aid Taxes

California employers and employees paid \$42,930,200 in Social Security taxes to the Federal Government during the fiscal year. These included insurance contributions totaling \$37,384,700 paid by employers and employees, and unemployment taxes amounting to \$5,545,500 paid by employers.

From the time the Social Security Act went into operation until June 30 of this year, California's employers and employees paid \$114,095,900 in insurance contributions and the State's employers paid \$16,305,100 in unemployment taxes, making a total of \$130,400,900.

The State had a \$153,752,000 balance in its Federal unemployment trust fund account at the close of the fiscal year, June 30.

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All Communities Active in 34th Annual Christmas Seal Sale

Sixty-two local tuberculosis associations in California are winding up the work of preparation for the annual Seal Sale. Coöperating with the officers and committees of these associations are thousands of willing helpers recruited from women's clubs, boys' clubs, girls' clubs, firemen, churches, welfare and civic groups, since the Christmas Seal Sale is a community affair and everybody is working.

This *News Letter* is full of timely items from all corners of the State concerning tuberculosis control work going on, and we have little space to tell of details of the Seal Sale work. However, you get an idea when we tell you that this year 178,000,000 Seals have been sold to the local associations and these will be resold to finance the work of the year's program. This is a million more Seals than have ever been sold in California. During the past month 936 boxes and cartons of supplies have been shipped from the State office to the local associations. It is the tense moment behind the scenes in the association headquarters in every part of the State. California is out to finish off the Tubercle Bacillus, using every means and technique which has been devised during the thirty-four years of work by the tuberculosis associations.—*News Letter*, California Tuberculosis Association, 45 Second Street, San Francisco.

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Seventeen Hospitals Organize

Eighteen Counties Are Served by Hospitals Which Organize

Delegates from seventeen hospitals throughout the Sacramento Valley gave permanency to an organization to be known as the Sacramento Valley Hospital Conference at a meeting at the Southern at noon yesterday.

Mrs. N. T. Enloe of Chico was chosen president. Other permanent officers are R. D. Brisbane of the Sutter Hospital, Sacramento, vice-president, and Daniel Brown, Shasta Dam Hospital, Shasta Dam, secretary-treasurer.

Eighteen Counties Included

The eighteen counties included in the association are Siskiyou, Modoc, Shasta, Lassen, Tehama, Placer, Glenn, Butte, Sierra, Colusa, Sutter, Yolo, Yuba, Nevada, Plumas, El Dorado, Amador and Sacramento.

By-laws were adopted and the president was named delegate to the mid-year conference of the California Hospital Association at Fresno, Saturday and Sunday. Mrs. Enloe will attend.

Program and plans for the future were taken up and the discussion topic of the day was nurses and nursing aids in Northern California hospitals. . . .—*Chico Record*, November 8.

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Fabiola Hospital Given Rebirth

An historic name of Oakland's past returned yesterday to the East Bay city's present, after an absence of eight years.

Fabiola Hospital, started with one bed in a cottage in 1877 and discontinued in 1932 when its huge plant was overshadowed with debt from too much philanthropy, was brought back to life through a superior court action.

The action, sought for years by the Fabiola Hospital Association and its president, Mrs. J. P. H. Dunn, authorizes availability of the association's fund for construction of a giant new wing to be built on to Oakland's Merritt Hospital—a new "Fabiola Wing."

There, in a modern \$150,000 annex, containing from forty to fifty beds, the Fabiola Hospital Association will continue to function, and, in line with its traditional policy and that of the Merritt Hospital, will offer "assistance, rather than charity."

Assets made available for construction of the new wing consist of several parcels of real estate and a building at Moss Avenue and Broadway in Oakland. The old Fabiola Hospital was known far and wide, especially to the 14,000 Oaklanders who were born in it. It gave the city its first ambulance, first nursing school, first public health nurse and first scientific diet kitchen.—*San Francisco Examiner*, November 7.

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Annual Rates Per 1,000 Population for Syphilis and for Gonorrhea, by Cities

Fiscal Year 1940

This statement is issued by the U. S. Public Health Service for the information of health officers in order to furnish current data as to the prevalence of syphilis and gonorrhea. It is based on monthly reports received from city departments of health. (Note: This excerpt gives rates only for California cities listed.)

	<i>Annual rates per 1,000 population</i>	
	<i>Syphilis</i>	<i>Gonorrhea</i>
Los Angeles, Calif. (4).....	4.7	3.1
Oakland, Calif. (2).....	2.7	2.0
San Francisco, Calif.....	3.3	3.6
Total (Average)	4.4	2.0
By States		
California	3.70	2.82
Total (Average)	3.68	1.36